

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-08 TRSE-00 AID-05 /084 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BISSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0487

C O N F I D E N T I A L BISSAU 0442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, PU

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: GUINEA-BISSAU

REF: A) 76 STATE 37591; B) 77 STATE 159747

1. BISSAU MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS OFFICER IS IROG BRIAN DEAN CURRAN

2. FOLLOWING RESPONSES KEYED TO PARA 7, REFTEL (A).

A) GUINEA-BISSAU'S MULTILATERAL INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES ARE SHAPED BY ITS SELF-PERCEPTION AS IN THE VANGUARD OF AFRICA'S PROGRESSIVE/RADICAL BLOC. GREAT SYMPATHY FOR LIBERATION MOVEMENTS FLOWS FROM THEIR CONVICTION, BACD ON THEIR OWN SUCCESSFUL LIBERATION STRUGGLE OF THE HISTORIC NECESSITY OF ARMED STRUGGLE. THUS, GUINEA-BISSAU'S STRONGEST MULTILATERAL INSTINCTS ARE TO SUPPORT THE POLASARIO AND SAHAROU I INDEPENDENCE, TO SUPPORT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT TO THE EXTENT IT PURSUES ARMED STRUGGLE AND TO SUPPORT THE PLO. TYPICAL THIRD WORLD POSITIONS CAN BE EXPECTED ON NIEO, LAW OF SEA, UN RESTRUCTURING, ETC. BUT WITHOUT THE FERVOR THAT THE FLASH OF AN AK-47 EVOKES. AS ONE OF THE FEW COUNTRIES RECOGNIZING THE SAHAROU I ARAB DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT GUINEA-BISSAU WOULD LEND ITS SUPPORT TO ANY EFFORT LAUNCHED ON THE POLASARIO'S BEHALF. THEY ARE UNLIKELY LEADERS OF ANY SUCH MOVE.

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B) GUINEA-BISSAU IS INFLUENCED, IN GENERAL, BY POSITIONS OF OTHER PERCEIVED AFRICAN RADICALS. ALGERIA IS NOTABLE IN THIS REGARD. ALSO OF IMPORTANCE ARE OTHER FORMER PORTUGUESE COLONIES, PARTICULARLY ANGOLA. THERE IS GREAT SYMPATHY IN GUINEA-BISSAU FOR SOLIDARITY AMONG LUSOPHONIC AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THE SOVIET UNION PROBABLY WILL HAVE LITTLE DIRECT INFLUENCE ON GUINE-BISSAU'S VOTING IN MULTILATERAL

ORGANIZATIONS AS THE RUSSIAN BEAR HAS BEEN PUSHING TOO HARD OF LATE IN BISSAU AND HAS LOST SOME OF ITS POPULARITY. ON THE OTHER HAND, CUBA WHICH IS HIGHLY REGARDED AND IS NOT PERCEIVED AS PUSHY CARRIES TREMENDOUS INFLUENCE. CUBANS HAVE HAD AND CAN BE EXPECTED TO CONTINUE TO HAVE GREAT WEIGHT WITH GUINEANS ON THE PUERTO RICO ISSUE, FOR EXAMPLE.

C) GUINEA-BISSAU'S AMBASSADOR TO THE UN, GIL FERNANDES, IS USUALLY NOT FULLY INSTRUCTED AS THE MOFA IN BISSAU DOES NOT REALLY FULLY UNDERSTAND ALL THAT IS GOING ON AND IS VERY POORLY ORGANIZED. FERNANDES WORKS WITHIN GUIDELINES BUT MUST TREAD CAREFULLY IN VIEW OF CRITICISM AT HOME THAT HE HAS BEEN IN THE U.S. TOO LONG.

D) NO.

E) GOGB HAS NOT BEEN RECEPTIVE TO ANY U.S. REPRESENTATION ON MULTILATERAL ISSUES. A STRONG DEMARCHE MADE PURSUANT TO A JOINT GUINEA-BISSAU/CUBA COMMUNIQUE ON PUERTO RICO HAD SOME EFFECT AS GUINEANS WERE SURPRISED AT STRONG NEGATIVE U.S. REACTION. NEVERTHELESS, WITH WESTERN AND EASTERN DONORS STUMBLING OVER EACH OTHER TRYING TO GIVE AID, THE LINKAGE BETWEEN MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL RELATIONS HAS SO FAR HAD LITTLE MEANING FOR GOGB. THEY HAVE NEVER SOLICITED U.S. SUPPORT ON ANY MULTILATERAL ISSUE.

3. COMMENT: IN CURRENT GUINEA-BISSAU FOREIGN POLICY PERSPECTIVE, IT IS DIFFICULT TO CONCEIVE OF OUR DEMARCHES HAVING SIGNIFICANT EFFECT. BECAUSE WE ARE ENGAGED IN AN CONFIDENTIAL

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EDUCATIONAL PROCESS AND BECAUSE HAVING VERY LITTLE CAPITAL TO BEGIN WITH, WE HAVE LITTLE TO LOSE, EMBASSY SEES NO REASON NOT TO CONTINUE TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS ON ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: ALTHOUGH LANGUAGE OF GUINEA-BISSAU IS PORTUGUESE, MOST OFFICIALS SPEAK FRENCH. STRONGLY URGE, THEREFORE, THAT BISSAU BE PLACED ON LIST OF THOSE POSTS RECEIVING FRENCH TEXTS OF AIDE MEMOIRES, TALKING POINTS, ETC.
CURRAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 04-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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